



Spotted Bear Work Session

The Spotted Bear Work Session was held May 29-31, 2004. Despite the questionable weather over the weekend the Montana Pilots Association (MPA) accomplished several tasks, which included rolling the airstrip, placing two new fire grates, installing two concrete tie-downs, and clearing out trees and brush.

As of May 15, the MPA is a part of a volunteer program with the forest service. This program covers all MPA volunteers and MPA guest participants as if they were Forest Service employees while they are working (on-site) on acknowledged projects. The MPA keeps a volunteer work record log for each airstrip. Each volunteer has to fill out and sign a form for this no-cost coverage.

The USFS is also going to transfer ownership of an extra storage building on the airstrip to the MPA. The storage shed will be jacked up and put on treated timbers. This building is certainly worth saving and will be utilized for storage and as an emergency shelter.

Thanks to Deb Mucklow of the USFS for her support with these back country work sessions. These airstrips play a very important part of aviation in Montana, also thanks to the many volunteers that help in maintaining these strips. With outstanding places like this for pilots to fly into - Montana truly is the 'Last Best Place'!



Part of the cleanup consisted of cutting-up and burning a downed tree.



Volunteers roll the runway.



After completing all their hard work – volunteers got together to discuss future improvements, which include sanitation facilities, seeding runway bare spots and painting, repairing and cleaning the MPA storage shed.

Administrator's Column



Deepest sympathy: is extended to the Brandner family of Ipswich, South Dakota on the loss of John Paul Brandner. John lost his life in an aircraft accident in the rugged mountains of Idaho. His aircraft crashed into the east side of Mount Borah, Idaho's highest peak. Sincere condolences also to Andy Taylor of Fort Benton who was John's employer.

Many thanks: to the Aeronautics Division search and rescue volunteers that were involved in the search for the M18 Dromader. Weather obstacles including rain and poor visibility contributed to the ability to fly for a short period. To all pilots, observers, Beaverhead County search and rescue team, Jean and Dennis Devivo of Dillon Flying Service, and many others that assisted in the search, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and everyone of you. Once again, the Montana system was rich with resources thanks to all of you that help facilitate our mission in these difficult times.

Reminder: I was prompted recently by a fellow pilot that 24/7 access to AWOS and ATIS stations is available toll free across the continental United States. This service connects you to any automated weather reporting station or airport (AWOS, ASOA and ATIS). Dial 1-877-ANY-AWOS. You will be asked to enter the 3-digit identifier of the airport you are inquiring about and will then be connected to the local station. You can get more information at: www.anyawos.com

AOPA Airport Watch Program: A little over a year ago, AOPA announced in partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) its airport watch program. The program is patterned after the highly successful neighborhood watch anti-crime programs, which call on community members to note and report suspicious activity. The national, toll-free security hotline number is: 1-866-GA-SECURE. AOPA has distributed kits including signs, posters, videos, and brochures to AOPA Support Network volunteers at 1,400 airports and airport managers at another 3,500 airports. If you visit your local airport and do not see information about the AOPA airport watch program displayed and additional materials are needed contact your local airport support network volunteer or Mike Ferguson, AOPA regional rep at mike.ferguson@aopa.org.

Part 139 update: in order to help understand and clarify the recent revisions by the FAA to FAR Part 139 a meeting will be held in Billings on August 11. The most visible change to the rule affects airports served with aircraft offering 9 – 30 passenger seats. Matt Cavanaugh, Manager, Safety and Standards Branch, FAA Airports Division of Renton, Washington is in the process of scheduling the all-day meeting. Letter of invite will be sent to representatives of Montana's eight essential air service airports including, airport managers, mayors/city managers and county commission chairs. Operations staff from the seven major airports will be invited and the meeting is open to anyone interested. Matt and his staff will also visit all essential air service airports later in the fall to discuss individual situations resulting from the Part 139 rule revisions. More information will be reported as it becomes available.

Grant awarded: the Bert Mooney Airport in Butte will receive \$800,000 from the TSA to purchase and install automobile ID sensors to electronically monitor airport traffic. This TSA grant is the second made to a Montana airport. The Helena Regional Airport received funds last fall to assess an electronic laser beam type access

monitoring system. These important test projects stand to set precedence for airports nationwide. Montana is fortunate to have these exciting activities taking place on our airports.

General aviation security: The Transportation Security Administration together with participation from several aviation alphabet groups has recently published guidelines for general aviation airports. After many months of input by many, deliberations, draft guidelines, the document has been released. The guidelines although not mandatory are voluntary with best practices offered relative to lighting, surveillance, perimeter control, etc. For a copy visit: www.tsa.gov click on security guidelines for general aviation airports.

Montana and the Sky

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Calendar

June 11, 2004 – Hangar Dance, Glendive Airport live music by Yellowstone, dinner at 6:00 pm with dance to follow. Sponsored by Glendive Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association.

June 12, 2004 – North Central Fly-In breakfast & Toy-Show, Havre Airport.

June 12-13, 2004 – Fly-in and Work Session Meadow Creek Airstrip.

June 19, 2004 - Choteau Fly-in at Nordhagen Field. 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Free breakfast, aircraft rides, flour bombing, spot landing, radio controlled aircraft, skydivers, tandem rides available.

June 19-20, 2004 – Fly-in Twin Bridges Airport, flour bombing, pancake breakfast, airplane rides, pig roast. For further information contact Ruby Valley Aviation (406) 684-5335.

June 20, 2004 – Frank Bass Father's Day Fly-In Pancake Breakfast will be held at Fort Peck Airport. Camping on field; boating; fishing. For further information phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 228-2433.

June 26, 2004 – Fly-In Antique Air & Car Show, Museum of Mountain Flying, Missoula Airport 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EAA will host a pancake breakfast 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Stan Cohen, (406) 549-8488 or phpc@montana.com or call the museum at (406) 721-3644.

July 3, 2004 – EAA chapter 57 breakfast 8:00 a.m. at the EAA's hangar on the west end of the Billings airport. Contact Larry Mayer for more information at larry.mayer@lee.net or see their website at www.eaabilings.com.

July 3-4, 2004 – Townsend Flight Festival (8U8) – Camping at airport, motels, transportation, shopping, fireworks & flying. Saturday 7/3 – Young Eagles flights, food available all day; Sunday 7/4 – lunch at Heritage Park in Townsend, fly out to Canyon Ferry Airstrip on the lake. Information: Neil or Karen Salmi (406) 266-5400.

July 16-18, 2004 – Fly-in and work session Schafer Meadows Airstrip.

July 24, 2004 – FAA & Montana Aeronautics Division Meeting and ELT Seminar, Roundup.

August 5-7, 2004 – Montana Antique Airplane Association Fly-In, Three Forks Airport. Young Eagle Rides, flour bombing, spot landing competition. Antique aircraft on display. Breakfast/lunch/dinner and dance. Saturday fly-in or drive-in breakfast at the Wilsall Airport at 7:30 a.m. For further information phone Cindy Kleimer (406) 586-2307 or (406) 580-2315 or email sckleimer@aol.com.

August 6-8, 2004 – 11th Annual Splash-In Fly-In. Lower Stillwater Lake 14 miles west of Whitefish, MT on US Hwy 93 West. For further information visit their website at www.stillwaterlanding.com.

August 6-8, 2004 – Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Workshop for Teachers, Student Teachers, Home Educators, and Youth Program Leaders. Billings Educational Academy, 1212 Central Avenue, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Participation is limited to 20 persons. Contact Major Steven Heffel at (406) 652-7268 or at heffelsc67@hotmail.com to reserve your slot.

August 8, 2004 – Seeley Lake Flying Club will host the annual pancake feed, Sunday morning, which is held in conjunction with the Staggerwing meeting in Seeley (23S).

August 13-15, 2004 – McCall Family Fly-In.

August 18-21, 2004 – Aviation Career Summer Camp for High School Students. For registration information contact Jeanne MacPherson at (406) 444-2506 or jemacpherson@state.mt.us or Len Wheeler at (406) 449-5270 ext. 18, or Leonard.Wheeler@faa.gov.

August 20-22, 2004 – Third Annual Montana Fun Weekend. Cut Bank International Airport. For further information contact Montana_fun_weekend@yahoo.com.

September 4-6, 2004 – Cleveland National Air Show, Burke Lakefront Airport. For further information phone (216) 781-0747 or visit their website at www.clevelandairshow.com.

September 11, 2004 – Wings of Freedom, Sidney Air Show. Call Sharon Rau (406) 433-1916 or Bryan Prevost (406) 774-3033 for further information.

September 25, 2004 - Columbus Fly-In. For further information phone (406) 328-4375.



TFRs can appear in your area any time!
Always check for TFRs with Flight Service
before you go flying. Tell your aviation friends
about www.faasafety.gov.

Billings EAA Hosts Young Eagles Day

Fifteen volunteer pilots from the Billings EAA chapter and a host of other volunteers gathered for the annual Billings Young Eagles Day. Chapter pilots flew 118 Young Eagle flights while the chapter's breakfast crew served 80 hungry participants pancakes, eggs and sausage. In addition to the EAA, Jeanne MacPherson of Montana Aeronautics; the Civil Air Patrol and the Billings Airport Operations Department also helped out with this event.



Doug Parrott of Roundup flew Young Eagles in his Stearman – what an awesome experience for those young people!

The Young Eagles Program was launched in July 1992. Since then:

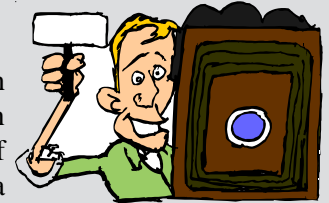
- More than 575,000 young people have received an airplane ride through the Young Eagles Program
- 575,000 Young Eagles represents approximately 115 young people flown for each public use airport in the country
- 575,000 Young Eagles represents 5.75 young people flown for each school in the United States
- Nearly 26,000 EAA members have volunteered their time and aircraft to participate as Young Eagle Flight Leaders (pilots)
- The average number of Young Eagles flown per pilot is 22. Individual numbers range from 1 to almost 2,000
- On average, 285 Young Eagles are added to the World's Largest Logbook every day of the year.
- Flight Leader experience levels range from private pilots to Airline Transport Pilots (ATP).
- Young Eagles flights have taken place in nearly every type of aircraft including standard factory-builts, antiques, classics, warbirds, aerobatic, jets, helicopters, balloons and gliders.
- Airports utilized for the Young Eagles Program range from private grass strips to major metropolitan airports
- An estimated 250,000 Young Eagle Flights have taken place
- On average there are 2.3 Young Eagles per flight
- 500,000 take offs and landings have occurred
- 83,333 flight hours (or 5,000,000 minutes) have been logged by General Aviation aircraft participating in the Young Eagles Program (20 minute average flight)
- More than 916,663 gallons of aviation fuel has been donated by EAA members, participating FBOs and associated program participants (based on 11 gallons per hour average)
- Fuel sales have generated an estimated \$2,062,491 (based on an average price of \$2.25 per gallon). This does not include the other costs (oil, brakes or tires) directly involved in flying.



Young Eagles are being helped into Edwards Jet Centers Cessna 172 for their first flight. Photos by Larry Mayer.

We'll Make You Famous

Ok, maybe *you* won't be famous, but your pictures might be! The Montana Aeronautics Division is currently working on the next installment of the Montana Aeronautical Chart, due out in January 2005. As you are already accustomed to, one side will be a WAC scale aviation map of our favorite chunk of land beneath the Big Sky. The back, however, is usually intended to be a pictorial enticement to see and understand perhaps just a little of what we Montanans consider "Just another day in the Last Best Place".



Obviously, as these pictures will be placed on an aviation document, we would prefer the majority of the photos be aviation related in some way. However, seeing as aviation is one of the best ways to access all that there is in Montana (from secluded camp sites and fishing holes, to the best \$100 hamburger in the mountain time zone), we welcome pictures depicting the true essence of Montana as well (like a Highway Patrol Officer pulling over an out-of-state speeder).

As this is the 21st century, we at Montana Aeronautics are trying to keep with the times. Therefore, we would prefer that you send your pictures in digital format (for ease of transcription) to the email address below. If you are unable to do so, we will gladly accept other photographic formats as well. All questions and correspondence should be directed to:

Mike Quinn
Montana Aeronautics Division
PO Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507
(406) 444-9581
mquinn@state.mt.us

We look forward to seeing what *you* have seen in our Big Montana Skies!

Big Sky Celebrates

On May 12, Big Sky Airlines hosted an open house in Helena to celebrate 25 years of service. President Kim Champney and Vice President, Craig Denney along with other Big Sky employees were in attendance. Expecting a larger than usual crowd in Helena we were unable to sample Craig's famous grilled buffalo burgers, but all were treated to a delicious meal of sub sandwiches, a variety of salads, fresh fruit & vegetables, and cookies & cake for dessert. Congratulations Big Sky – we look forward to your outstanding service for many years to come!!



Debbie Alke, Montana Aeronautics and Ron Mercer, Helena Airport Manager (back row) congratulate Big Sky employees on a job well done.



Vice President Craig Denney served cake to the hungry crowd.



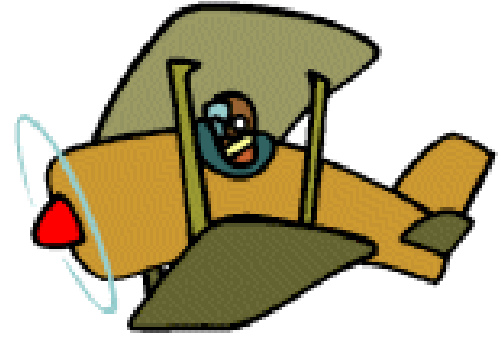
Patty Mitchell Flies Again

Retired United airline pilot and former Montana Aeronautics Division employee Patty Mitchell and former 99 President Gene Nora Jessen have entered the Marion Jayne Air Race. They will fly Mitchell's 1969 Cessna 182M in tribute to the 1929 race winner Louise Thaden and carry Thaden's Race #4 as their call-sign. Gene Nora was so inspired by the 1929 Air Derby that she wrote a well-regarded book about the trailblazers of aviation of 75 years ago.

These two will be flying for fun, friendship and the challenge. They have the right spirit for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the National Air Races. Thaden and US Air Race founder Marion Jayne were both inducted in the WAI Pioneer Aviation Hall of Fame in 1999. Thaden's flower-covered victorious airplane was the inspiration for the logo of the 99's Museum for Women Pilots where Marion Jayne is honored with a cabinet dedicated to her contributions.

"Honor the Past. Invest in the Future" is the theme for the US Air Race, Inc. celebration of the sparkling 7th Diamond anniversary of the 1929 National Air Races. The teams in the exciting cross-country Marion Jayne Air Race and Cruise will fly from California to Cleveland. Three hundred mile air races are also planned in California and Ohio. Awards will be made at the Cleveland National Air Show. These fabulous flying events will be held from August 28 to September 6, 2004.

As in 2003, teams compete in cruise, speed and collegiate divisions. Custom divisions are possible for five or more teams such as all RVs, all Tigers or all Cirrus. All teams are eligible for the prestigious Marion Jayne Perpetual Trophy.



Defining the Big Picture

Article from Aviation Safety, August 2003

When the weather ahead looks like trouble, it helps to notify controllers of deviations you are making even if you think they won't notice because you'll only go off course a little.

Studies show that controllers who are informed of the extent and reasons for pilot deviations develop a mental picture of convective weather even if they don't have access to weather radar. After controlling traffic around convective weather for about 20 minutes, most controllers were able to draw a weather map that accurately showed the convective weather. However, if pilots transiting other convective areas did not ask for deviations, the controllers had no way to know it was there.

One study in which the pilots and controllers shared weather information found that when the pilots and controllers acted as a team, the controllers had a good mental picture of the weather in 94 percent of the cases. When they did not share information, only about half of the controllers had a good mental picture.

For that reason, it makes sense to let the Center controller know what you see when requesting a deviation. For instance, instead of saying "Mooney 01V request 10 degrees left for weather," add a few words. "Mooney 01V request 10 degrees left for weather, back on course 30 miles."

The challenge here is compressing the information you are giving to the controller at a time when lots of other airplanes may be screaming for attention, too. A little info is good; a lot of info is not so good.

Help the controller understand where you're going, why, and how long you'll be there. Other ways will still work, but it helps to give the controller the heads-up.

Laurel Aviation and Technology Week

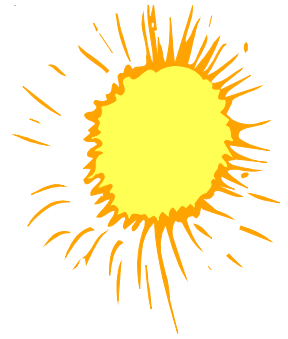
Laurel continues to put Montana on the aviation education map with their awesome aviation and technology week! Government agencies, local exhibitors and many volunteers worked to put this nationally recognized aviation and technology week all together. Druann Kerns served as the executive director and Jack Bayne, who organized the first event in 1992, though retired, is still serving the committee as a consultant.

On Monday and Tuesday the Laurel students started the week with aviation and technology professionals giving talks, presentations and demonstrations in the classrooms. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, more than 10, 000 students from Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming made their way to Laurel Airport, Billings Airport, Thompson Park and Laurel High School for over 125 interactive exhibits and demonstrations with topics ranging from medical technology to railroad safety and military aircraft.

NASA brought "Space Station Imagination", students boarded the interactive exhibit and learned how astronauts work and live in space. The US Air force presented "Cross into the Blue" a superior state of the art tour utilizing three 53 foot trailers housing an F-16 Fighting Falcon simulator, air to air refueling, an extreme equilibrium ride that simulated spatial disorientation and special ops jumper the simulated a parachute jump. Students also toured aircraft at the airports and kept their eyes and ears turned skyward as some of the biggest, best and fastest aircraft did flyovers.

Out of State Chart & Directories

For Montana and other interested pilots that will be doing some out of state travel this summer below are the contacts for acquiring a chart and directory from a few of our surrounding states:



Colorado – Aeronautical charts are free, there is a \$4 charge (to cover postage) for airport directories. Charts can be ordered from their website: www.colorado-aeronautics.org or by calling the Division at (303) 261-4418. For directories, please mail the \$4 check along with your request to: CDOT-Division of Aeronautics, 5126 Front Range Parkway, Watkins, CO 80137.

Idaho – Offers both a chart & directory for \$5 each plus shipping. Requests can be made to Bobbie Matthews at bmatthew@itd.state.id.us or call (208) 334-8775. They are out of the directory right now and are considering offering it on line.

Nebraska – Out of state pilots may receive a free copy of the aeronautical chart and airport directory by calling (402) 471-2371 or writing: Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, PO Box 82088, Lincoln, NE 68501.

North Dakota – For a chart & directory send a request to NDAC, Box 5020, Bismarck, ND 58502 or ndaero@state.nd.us.

Oregon – Pilots can access their website at www.aviation.state.or.us and download an order form for the 2003 Oregon airport directory or send their order along with payment to: Oregon Dept. of Aviation, 3040 25th Street SE, Salem, OR 97302-1125 Attn: Doris. The cost for the directory is \$8. Those ordering 10 or more directories receive a discount cost of \$5, these costs include shipping. The last aeronautical chart was published in 1996 and there is no charge for the chart.

South Dakota – Call (605) 773-5037 and request either the chart, directory or both. They are offered free of charge.

Utah – Offers an aeronautical chart, free of charge, to those who request one. Send an e-mail request to pmorley@utah.gov or phone (801) 715-2260, send a written request to Utah Division of Aeronautics, 135 N. 2400 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116. In addition to the chart they send a Utah travel guide, if requested.

Washington – The state aeronautical chart is available upon request by calling (360) 651-6300. Or you can download on their website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Aviation/.

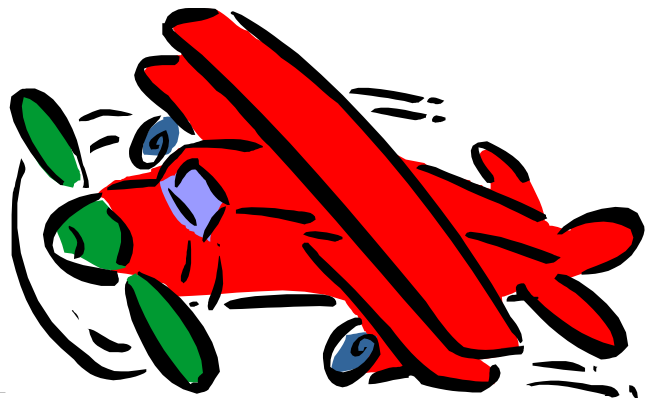
Wyoming – Offers an aeronautical chart that includes an airport directory free of charge. To order write to WYDOT Aeronautics Division, 5300 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340, phone (307) 777-3952, email michele.whipple@dot.state.wy.us. Their state's web site can be viewed at www.dot.state.wy.us which includes an Aeronautics Division section.

For those of you that have out of state friends or family flying into Montana, the Aeronautics Division offers a vacation packet that includes a chart & directory free of charge. To order a vacation packet write to Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507, phone (406) 444-2506 or email spfeifer@state.mt.us.

Drummond VOR/DME Decommissioned

The Drummond VOR/DME was decommissioned on January 13, 2004. For information on making comments on its replacement please go to: http://www.faasafety.gov/notices/2004-May/26_Drummondfler1.pdf. This document will address the required Victor Airway changes that need to be implemented and give instructions on how you may make comments and suggestions to the Northwest Mountain Region, Airspace Branch located in Renton, Washington.

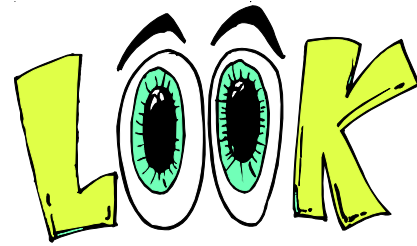
This change in NAVAID availability will change the altitudes and flight paths of many aircraft operations in this area. Please be aware of this NAVAID decommissioning and be sure to read the document mentioned above.



Tool Scholarships Awarded



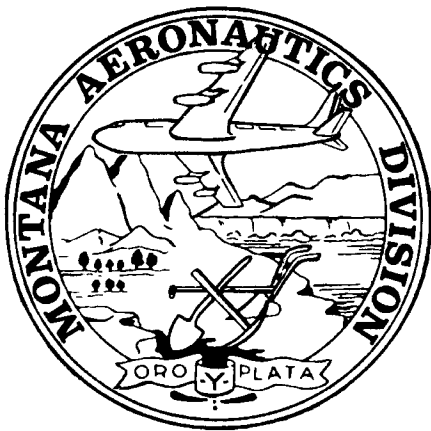
On May 6th the Montana Aeronautics Division awarded Mathew Toelke and Derek Brown the "Tools Beneath the Wings" Aviation Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement in the field of aviation maintenance. Pictured are (l-r) Rena Smith, Instructor Helena College of Technology, scholarship recipients Mathew Toelke and Derek Brown, and Brent Vetter, Instructor, Helena College of Technology. Congratulations Mathew & Derek!



Pilots and fans, checkout this month's AOPA Pilot Magazine, June 2004. There is a great article starting on page 70, entitled, "Kitbuilt-Bush Fun" featuring Montana pilots, Montana airstrips and Larry Mayer of Billings is the featured pilot photographer.

Twenty-nine hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,131. This includes \$200 for production, \$750 for postage and \$181 for printing.

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